

## THE LAW-MAKERS NOT OF ONE MIND

Senate and House Fail to Agree as to Legislation.

TO REPAIR THE OLD CAPITOL.

Resolution Creating a Commission to Report on Necessary Improvements—Making Kidnapping a Capital Offense.

The House of Delegates had a somewhat extended and warm debate yesterday over the proposition to recede from its position concerning general legislation. The Senate, soon after it met, refused to concur in the House amendment to the Glass resolution. Then the question came up in the lower body as to what it should do. A number of members were in favor of reversing the action of the day before, but a small majority objected and the House stood by what it had done.

A conference committee from the two branches was provided for and appointed. This committee will consider the whole matter and make a report. It looks very much as if the general legislation scheme may finally be defeated.

Both the Senate and the House adjourned over until Monday, as it was thought the Committees on Elections would meet jointly to-day to consider the Constitutional Convention bills. In the Senate last night, however, the hour was passed and these bills should be first considered in caucus, and the meeting of the committees was called off.

A very important measure, adopted by the Senate, was a resolution providing for a commission to report as to needed repairs to the Capitol building. A resolution was also offered in the House and referred, providing for the better ventilation of the halls of the House.

Delegate John W. Todd, of Augusta, introduced a bill which makes kidnapping a capital offense.

Both branches were in session until after two o'clock. A few local bills were passed.

**Work of the Senate.**

Rev. Dr. George Cooper made the prayer in the Senate. The proceedings were rather tame. There were no debates.

While the body was adjourned in session, the chair was vacated for an hour while waiting to ascertain what the House would do in reference to general legislation.

A bill was presented by Mr. Orle, confirming and amending the charter of the Long-Distance Telephone Company of Augusta. The amendment enlarges the powers of the company with reference to the condemnation of land. As the bill was referred to the committee on the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation.

**RESOLVED TO CONCUR.**

When the House resolution, in relation to general legislation, was reported Mr. Glass moved that the Senate refuse to concur, and that a committee of conference be asked for. This was agreed to without debate.

Mr. Sands offered the following:

Resolved, That the Committee on Courts of Justice be and they are hereby instructed to enquire into the propriety of whether or not the incumbent of the office of Second Auditor is entitled to continue to hold said office until the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

Mr. Eggleston said he could see no good reason for referring the resolution. The matter of the term of the Second Auditor would probably have to be finally decided by the courts.

Mr. Sands said the resolution was not offered in the interest of any candidate. The Governor had said in his message that Judge Dew was appointed for the unexpired term and as the best lawyers were disgraced as to when the term expired he thought the question should be investigated.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 22 to 7.

**FOR A COMMISSION.**

Mr. Tyler offered a bill amending the charter of the New Virginia News in relation to the control of the Police Department. It takes from the Mayor power to appoint police officers, and provides for a police commission of three members.

**TO IMPROVE THE CAPITOL.**

Mr. Fairfax presented and has passed under a suspension of the rule the following:

Resolved by the Senate (The House of Delegates concurring), That a commission be appointed composed of five members, two of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and three by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, who shall be, and are hereby authorized and directed to investigate the condition of the Capitol building and make into consideration the question of making needed repairs to the Capitol and arranging a more convenient and satisfactory plan for heating and ventilating that building, the Library and Executive Mansion, and the necessity of these changes and especially for the re-roofing of the Capitol; also this committee be empowered to dispose of or destroy the great quality of old useless violations which are endangering the building by their weight and inflammable nature.

**ONE DAY'S MOTION.**

On Mr. McAllister's motion, the Senate agreed that when it adjourned for the day it be until noon Monday.

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Soon after the chair was resumed Mr. Hubbard informed the Senate of the action of the House, in relation to the conference committee.

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The House was called to order at noon by Speaker Saunders. Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. W. V. Tudor.

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Mr. Madison presented a bill providing for the election of a new Electoral Board for the city of Newport News. He desired it placed on the calendar, but Mr. Whitehead, of Norfolk, objected, and it was referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

**TWO CONVENTION BILLS.**

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The bill provides for senatorial basis of apportionment and for the election of two delegates from each senatorial district. The election of delegates is provided for on the fourth Thursday in May and the meeting of the body on July 1st. The works of the convention is to be completed by the November election, 1901. The bill was properly referred.

Mr. Anderson, of Richmond city, also presented a bill on the same subject identical with that introduced by Mr. Flood in the November election, 1901.

Mr. Anderson's bill provides for 100 delegates, appointed as follows: two from each senatorial district, two from each Congressional District, and one from each of the counties, and one from the city of Richmond.

Mr. Parks offered a resolution which was referred, a copy of which was passed in the Senate Wednesday, providing for the appointment of a committee to look into the question of building a new penitentiary or repairing the present one.

Mr. Parks offered a resolution of respect to the memories of the late Dr. Harrison, surgeon, and Captain White, assistant superintendent of the penitentiary. It was adopted.

Mr. Glass reported from the Senate that his body had refused to concur in the House joint resolution in regard to the taking up of general legislation.

Mr. Todd, of Augusta, offered a bill providing for capital punishment for kidnappers. It was referred.

Mr. Priddy asked that 250 copies of his pension bill be printed. It was so ordered.

**TO VENTILATE THE HALL.**

Mr. Baker, of Chesterfield, offered the following:

Whereas, in view of the early assembling of the Constitutional Convention, and the probable use of this hall for their meetings, and its present imperfect and dangerous ventilation;

Resolved, That the speaker be authorized to appoint a committee of five members, three of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate and two by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, who shall be, and are hereby authorized and directed to investigate the condition of the Capitol building and make into consideration the question of making needed repairs to the Capitol and arranging a more convenient and satisfactory plan for heating and ventilating that building, the Library and Executive Mansion, and the necessity of these changes and especially for the re-roofing of the Capitol; also this committee be empowered to dispose of or destroy the great quality of old useless violations which are endangering the building by their weight and inflammable nature.

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